

National Weather Service Eureka, CA:

Minor Corrections to Coastal Marine and Land Zones of Northwest California

What:

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Eureka, California will be making minor corrections to coastal boundaries of marine and land zones of Northwest California and to Humboldt Bay. The current zone configurations contain boundary issues that can be problematic to internal operations. The first issue is marine zones extend inland along major rivers of northwest California. This causes the marine forecast to be displayed across inland locations where ocean waves have no impact. The second issue is that small, uninhabited rocks in the ocean are considered *land zones*. These rocks are mostly inaccessible to people and would be better represented as a marine zone. The final issue is the current configuration of Humboldt Bay limits endeavors for decision support services around the bay. NWS Eureka will take the following corrective steps to address these issues:

1. Confine marine zones PZZ356, PZZ450, and PZZ455 to the ocean and assign areas along the rivers to their respective public/fire/county zones.
2. Assign rock islands in the ocean to their respective marine zone.
3. Clean up boundaries around Humboldt Bay to generate a new marine zone, *Humboldt Bay* PZZ415.

NOTE: The existing zone, Humboldt Bay Bar PZZ410, will be confined to the geographical harbor channel but the Humboldt Bay Bar Forecast will not experience any impacts from these changes (www.wrh.noaa.gov/eka/marine/).

Why:

Correcting these issues will result in multiple benefits to the internal operations at NWS Eureka that not only will alleviate workload during critical weather but will also ensure that a clear and concise message is being generated to the public and partners. Additionally, a new zone for Humboldt Bay will allow the development for a bay forecast in the future.

Where:

Small portions of coastal Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties (and corresponding marine, public, and fire weather zones) will be impacted. Humboldt Bay will also be impacted with the development of a new zone. Please view the graphics for specific changes.

When:

Effective April 02, 2019 at 1100 AM Pacific Daylight Time, 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).





